

SENATE BILL 1387

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 33; Title 50; Title 56; Title 63 and Title 68,
relative to lupus.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

68-1-2001.

(a) The department of health shall establish, promote, and maintain a lupus education and awareness program with an emphasis on at-risk communities to raise public awareness, educate consumers, and educate and train health professionals, human services providers, and other audiences.

(b) The department, in creating and implementing the program, shall:

(1) Provide sufficient staff and appropriate training to implement the program;

(2) Establish a grant program to support nonprofit voluntary health organizations with expertise in lupus to increase public awareness and enhance health professional education and understanding of the symptoms and consequences of lupus and the populations most at risk;

(3) Identify the appropriate entities to carry out the program;

(4) Base the program on the most current scientific information and findings;

(5) Work with government entities, community and business leaders, community organizations, health and human services providers, and national,

state, and local lupus organizations, such as the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., to coordinate efforts to maximize state resources in the areas of lupus education and awareness; and

(6) Identify and use other successful lupus education and awareness programs and procure related materials and services from organizations with appropriate expertise and knowledge of lupus.

(c) The department shall accept gifts, grants, and donations from the federal government, foundations, organizations, medical schools, and other entities for fulfilling the obligations of the program.

(d) The department may seek any federal waiver that may be necessary to maximize funds from the federal government to implement the program.

68-1-2002.

(a)

(1) The department of health shall conduct a needs assessment to identify the following:

(A) The level of statewide health professional and public awareness about lupus;

(B) The existence of lupus education, awareness, and treatment programs and related technical assistance available in the state and nationwide;

(C) The lupus-related educational and support service needs of healthcare providers in the state, including physicians, nurses, health plans, and other health professionals and healthcare entities;

(D) The needs of people with lupus, their families, and caregivers, including healthcare providers, physicians, nurses, health plans, and other health professionals and healthcare entities; and

(E) The services available to individuals with lupus, including the existence and availability of lupus treatment and specialty care, lupus support groups, and other related care and management services.

(2) Based on the needs assessment, the department shall develop and maintain a directory of lupus-related services and healthcare providers with specialization in services to diagnose and treat lupus. The department shall disseminate the directory to all stakeholders, including individuals with lupus, families, representatives from voluntary organizations, health professionals, health plans, and state and local health agencies. The directory must also be available on the department's website.

(b) The department shall undertake activities to raise public awareness about the symptoms of lupus, personal risk factors, and options for diagnosing and treating the disease with a particular focus on populations at elevated risk for lupus. The activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Implementing a statewide campaign to educate the general public about lupus by utilizing print, radio, and television public service announcements, advertisements, posters, and other materials;

(2) Disseminating health information and conducting individual risk assessments at public events, such as health fairs and community forums sponsored by the department; and

(3) Distributing information through local health departments; schools; area agencies on aging; employer wellness programs; physicians and other health professionals; hospitals and health plans; health, nonprofit, and community-based organizations; and regional offices of the department.

68-1-2003.

(a) The department of health shall establish a program to award grants to educate and train physicians, health professionals, and other service providers on the most current, accurate scientific and medical information on lupus diagnosis, treatment, and therapeutic decision-making, including medical best practices for detecting and treating the disease in special populations, risks and benefits of medications, and research advances. The department shall equally divide the total amount available for the grants amongst the three grand divisions.

(b) Each grant recipient shall:

(1) Develop health professional educational materials that identify the latest scientific and medical information and clinical applications;

(2) Work to increase knowledge among physicians, nurses, and other health and human services professionals about the importance of lupus diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;

(3) Use available curricula for training of health and human services providers and community leaders on lupus detection and treatment;

(4) Support continuing medical education programs in all geographical areas of the state presented by the leading state academic institutions by providing the most current information;

(5) Provide workshops and seminars for in-depth professional development in the field of care and management of lupus patients to bring the latest information on clinical advances to healthcare providers;

(6) Conduct statewide conferences on lupus at appropriate intervals; and

(7) Prepare an annual report that describes the recipient's use of the grant and submit a copy of the report to the department.

68-1-2004.

There is hereby created in the state treasury the lupus education and awareness program fund. All moneys accepted under § 68-1-2001(c) must be credited to the fund. Money in the fund shall be used solely to administer the lupus education and awareness program created by this part. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund. Moneys in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, part 6, for the sole benefit of the fund. All earnings attributable to such investments shall be credited to the fund.

68-1-2005.

The department shall annually report on this part to the chairs of the health and welfare committee of the senate and the health committee of the house of representatives. The report may be made in conjunction with any other report made to the chairs.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.